

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

In the Specification

Please substitute the following amended paragraph(s) and/or section(s) (deleted matter is shown by strikethrough and added matter is shown by underlining):

Page 10 of the Substitute Specification, lines 8 and 10:

Figure 3b is an enlarged portion of Figure 3a illustrating more clearly the parts of the wheel at the junction between the rim of the wheel and the tire; ~~[[and]]~~

Figure 4 shows a partial cross section of a wheel according to a third embodiment of the invention; and

Figures 5a, 5b and 5c illustrate schematically a wheel according to an alternative embodiment of the present invention.

Page 14 of the Substitute Specification, lines 6-8:

The function of the sealing element 7 of the first embodiment (or of the sealing member 13 of the second embodiment) could be achieved by means of a multiplicity of flexible elements extending radially across the junction, such as brushes having resiliently deformable bristles aligned radially with respect to the axis of the tire 1 (i.e. in a radial direction from the axis). Such an alternative is shown in Figures 5a, 5b and 5c, which show the wheel 1, the hub 2, hub cap 2a, the rim 3, the tire 4, and the flexible elements 20. The rubber sealing element 7 of the first embodiment could ~~alternatively~~ be replaced with flexible adhesive or gel or other suitable sealing material.